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11 September 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR :
THROUGH : Deputy Director (Research)
SUBJECT : ADCI Action Memorandum No. A-43, Dated
7 September 1962 (ER 62-6554)

In regard to the two action items in the subject, the following will be informational.

A. Sonic Boom: OSA began considering the sonic boom problem with the A-12 many months ago. Early in the game I coordinated with Dr. Hugh Dryden, the Deputy Administrator of NASA, and the then Director of Aeronautical Research for NASA, Mr. John Stack, to obtain from that source copies of the findings on the NASA-DOD-USAF-FAA sonic boom tests begun a year ago using B-58 aircraft, which tests are continuing to date.

We have also run studies with Pratt and Whitney to determine the DB output on the J-58 engine at full thrust with a view to determining whether extrapolating information could be derived to give us an idea of the possible sonic effect. These studies were very informational as they dealt with possible hazards to ground handling personnel, but the data does not become meaningful until the engine is installed in a given aircraft with certain aerodynamics characteristics.

At the present time we are working with FAA and NASA, as well as Kelly Johnson, to set up actual sonic boom tests utilizing the exotic measuring equipment owned by NASA which was employed in the B-58 program mentioned above. We expect these tests to commence coincident with the flights of Article Two which will have two J-58 engines installed, and this we expect will be sometime in October. NASA and LAC will

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collaborate on the report which should give us some fairly accurate idea of the parameters of the sonic boom program. We have always felt that there would be some sonic boom effect but are hopeful that extreme altitude will render this significantly less of a deterrent than at those altitudes where the B-58 operates.

B. Surfacing of OXCART: An informal committee was established several weeks ago at Dr. Charyk's suggestion to consider the implications of surfacing either an LRI or a RS version of the A-12. The committee has consisted of Colonel Geary as Chairman, Mr. Spurgeon Keeney from Dr. Wiesner's office, [redacted] OSA Cover Officer, [redacted] OSA/Security, Mr. John Parangosky, Development Division, OSA, and the undersigned. A meeting was held 10 September in the Executive Office to discuss the matter with [redacted] [redacted] has been cleared for OXCART for some time and worked with [redacted] on the original OXCART cover story. We expect to have some basic conclusions to report on this subject within the next ten days at the latest.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

cc: DD/R

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